Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing demand for a commodity provided by a utility, the utility delivering the commodity to a plurality of ~~at least one~~ customer sites, the customer sites each having a plurality of devices which use the commodity, including the steps of:

providing a plurality of nodes, each node being associated with each device;

defining an energy management program at the utility having a subset of the plurality of devices for which usage of the commodity may be managed by activating the energy management program;

measuring, by the associated nodes, the instantaneous rate at which the commodity is being delivered to the associated device;

receiving at the utility in real time, the instantaneous rate at which the commodity is being delivered to each of the devices;

determining at the utility, in real time, a capacity of the commodity that can be managed by the utility by activating the energy management program, the capacity being determined by the instantaneous rate at which the commodity is being delivered to the subset of the plurality of devices;

selectively activating the energy management program at the utility to manage the usage of the commodity by the subset of devices; and

determining an actual consumption of the commodity at each of the plurality of devices following activation of the program such that the utility can verify, in real time, management of the commodity usage for each of the plurality of devices following activation of the program.

2. (Currently amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of

subsequently measuring at least one of a rate and a change in the rate at which the commodity is being delivered to each device of the subset of the devices after activation of the energy management program and receiving the rate or change in the rate at the utility.

3. (Previously presented) A method, as set forth in claim 2, including the step of determining an actual capacity of the commodity saved by activating the energy management program.

4. (Previously presented) A method, as set forth in claim 3, including the step of providing at least one of an alternate rate and a billing adjustment to at least one customer as a function of the actual measured commodity consumption reduction for each of the customer devices during activation of the energy management program.

5. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the at least one of an alternative rate and a billing adjustment is also a function of historical usage information.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the utility delivers the commodity to a plurality of customer sites, each customer site having a plurality of devices and~~ the step of defining the program includes the step of including within the program all devices of a similar type at each customer site.

8. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of allowing a customer to subscribe to the program.

9. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the program is mandatory.

10. (Currently amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the utility delivers the commodity to a plurality of customer sites, each customer site having a plurality of devices and~~ the step of defining at least one program includes the step of defining a plurality of programs, each program having a respective subset of the devices.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of providing a graphical representation of the capacity available.

13. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the commodity is electrical power.

14. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the commodity is water.

15. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the commodity is one of natural, gas and steam.

16. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of defining at least one program includes the step of defining a plurality of programs, each program having a respective subset of the devices, the method including the step of providing a search function for identifying at lease one program which matches a set of conditions.

17. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 16, wherein the set of conditions includes an available capacity.

18. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of providing a utility interface.

19. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein the utility interface is accessible through a web browser.

20. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of automatically activating the program under a predetermined set of conditions.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of managing the subset of devices includes the step of controlling usage of the commodity during a predetermined period of time.

23. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 22, wherein at least one of the devices has an operating setpoint, and wherein the step of controlling the subset of devices includes the step of modifying the setpoint.

24. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the steps of receiving a supply request and allowing an operator to responsively activate the program.

25. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 24, wherein the supply request includes a request duration, wherein the program may be activated as a function of the request duration.

26. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of downloading to each node, a program schedule containing scheduling information for the program.

27. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of providing a gateway node coupled between the nodes and the utility.

28. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 27, wherein each of the nodes is one of a load metering node, a control node, and a load control node.

29. (Currently amended) A system for managing demand for a commodity provided by a utility, the energy provider delivering the commodity to a plurality of ~~at least one~~ customer sites, each ~~the~~ customer site having a plurality of devices which use the commodity, comprising:

a utility interface, operable by a user at the utility, for defining an energy management program having a subset of the plurality of devices for which usage of the commodity may be managed by activating the energy management program;

a distribution network for delivering the commodity to the subset of devices;

a plurality of nodes, each node associated with a respective device; and,

a control system coupled to the utility interface, the distribution network, and the nodes, for reducing the delivery of the commodity to the subset of the plurality of devices by activating the energy management program via the nodes, wherein the control system is operable to determine, in real time, a capacity of the commodity that can be managed by the utility by activating the energy management program, the capacity being determined by an instantaneous rate at which the commodity is being delivered to the subset of the plurality of devices, wherein the control system is further operable to determine, in real time, an actual consumption of the commodity by the subset of the plurality of devices following activation of the energy management program.

30. (Original) A system, as set forth in claim 29, the control system being adapted to activate the program and the nodes adapted to subsequently measure the rate at which the commodity is being delivered to the subset of the devices.

31. (Previously presented) A system, as set forth in claim 30, the control system for determining at least one of an actual rate of consumption of the commodity after

activation of the energy management program and a change in a rate of consumption induced by activating of the energy management program.

32. (Previously presented) A system, as set forth in claim 31, wherein the control system determines an at least one of an alternative rate and a billing adjustment to at least one customer as a function of the actual consumption at the related customer site by the program.

33. (Original) A system, as set forth in claim 32, wherein the at least one of an alternative rate and a billing adjustment is also a function of historical usage information.

34. (Original) A system, as set forth in claim 30, wherein the control system verifies management of the devices within the subset of the devices.

35. (Currently amended) A system, as set forth in claim 31, wherein ~~the utility delivers the commodity to a plurality of customer sites, each customer site having a plurality of devices and~~ the utility interface allows the user to define a plurality of programs, each program having a respective subset of the device.

36. (Original) A system, as set forth in claim 29, including a gateway node coupled between the nodes and the utility.

37. (Previously presented) A system, as set forth in claim 29, wherein each of the nodes is one of a load metering node, a control node, and a load control node.

38. (Previously presented) A method, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising the step of determining at the utility, in real time, a capacity of the commodity that can be

managed by the utility by activating each of the plurality of energy management programs.

39. (Previously presented) A method, as set forth in claim 38, further comprising the step of selectively activating one or more of the energy management programs at the utility to manage the usage of the commodity by the subset of devices associated with each of the plurality of energy management programs.